

## 2023 Gordon Bennet Cup Distance Balloon Race Underway

*At 5am, Sunday 10/8, USA-1 leads the way, tracked near Tucumcari, NM*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact : [media@balloonfiesta.com](mailto:media@balloonfiesta.com)

**Albuquerque, NM** – The 66<sup>th</sup> Coupe Aeronautique Gordon Bennett, proudly sponsored by BayoTech, is under way. As of the latest update at 5:00 am from the Gordon Bennett Command Center, there are currently sixteen balloons in flight. Competitors of this prestigious long-distance gas balloon race launched on Saturday morning, October 7<sup>th</sup> from the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

### Team Updates:

<b>Team</b>	<b>Pilots</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Distance Covered</b>
<b>AUT-1</b>	Gerald Stürzlinger Wolfgang Spät	Austria	198.50 km
<b>AUT-2</b>	Christian Wagner Stefanie Liller	Austria	187.23 km
<b>FRA-1</b>	Benoît Pelard Benoît Petérlé	France	153.68 km
<b>FRA-2</b>	Eric Decellières Benoît Havret	France	191.27 km
<b>FRA-3</b>	Hervé Moine Christophe Blanchard	France	DID NOT LAUNCH
<b>GER-1</b>	Wilhelm Eimers Benjamin Eimers	Germany	154.42 km
<b>GER-2</b>	Benedict Munz Matthias Schlegel	Germany	183.21 km
<b>GER-3</b>	Max Michels Andreas Michels	Germany	186.97 km
<b>LTU-1</b>	Robertas Komža	Lithuania	214.14 km

	Romanas Mikelevičius		
<b>POL-1</b>	Krzysztof Zapart Pjtor Halas	Poland	206.16 km
<b>POL-2</b>	Jacek Bogdański Przemyslaw Mościcki	Poland	180.64 km
<b>ESP-1</b>	Anulfo González Angel Aguirre	Spain	234.34 km
<b>SUI-1</b>	Balthasar Wicki René Erni	Switzerland	175.12 km
<b>GBR-1</b>	Deborah (Day) Scholes John Rose	United Kingdom	202.16 km
<b>USA-1</b>	Noah Forden Brenda Cowlshaw	United States	230.96 km
<b>USA-2</b>	Barbara Fricke Peter Cuneo	United States	185.40 km
<b>USA-3</b>	Mark Sullivan Cheri White	United States	174.81 km

We will continue to provide updates on the progress of all teams. For the most up-to-date information and to track the balloons in real-time, please visit the official Gordon Bennett Cup website at <https://balloonfiesta.com/Gordon-Bennett-2023> and our dedicated tracking site at <https://live.gordonbennett.aero>. Don't forget to tune in to [Gordon Bennett TV](#) for exclusive coverage and insights.

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### **About the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta & Gordon Bennett Cup**

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, powered by ExxonMobil, is the host for the 66<sup>th</sup> Gordon Bennett Cup. The Balloon Fiesta is a festival of hot air balloons that takes place in October in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. For details on events, schedule, entertainment and photographs visit our website [www.balloonfiesta.com](http://www.balloonfiesta.com) and follow us on Twitter @BalloonFiesta and Facebook.